



Series I

Volume I

1975

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ARMENIAN

NUMISMATIC

JOURNAL

ՀԱՅ ԴՐԱՍՏԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ԸՆԿԵՐԱԿՑՈՒԹԻՒՆ
ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

8511 BEVERLY PARK PL., PICO RIVERA, CALIF. 90660, USA

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Series I, Volume I

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INDEX

EDITORIAL	Y. T. Nercessian	1
PAPER NOTES OF ARMENIA (Outline)	Y. T. Nercessian	2
ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE		4
ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEETING NOTICE		4
RECENT NEWS		5
ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY ACRONYM		5
MEETING NOTICE		5
PAPER NOTES OF ARMENIA (Outline)	Y. T. Nercessian	6
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR		12
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ ՄԵԴԱԼՆԵՐ ԹՈՂԱՐԿՈՒՄԱԾ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅՈՒՄ	Հ. Վ. Սարգսյան	13
ARMENIAN MEDALLIONS PRODUCED IN AMERICA (Summary Translation)	H. V. Sarkissian	16
PAPER NOTES OF ARMENIA (Outline)	Y. T. Nercessian	19
COIN OF ARMENIAN REPUBLIC?	Wartan Gewenian	23
ՀՐԱՄԱ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ	Վարդան Գեղենեան	23
ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE		24
ԿՈՉ ԱՆԴԱՄՆԵՐՈՒՄ		25
NOTICE TO MEMBERS		25

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EDITORIAL

Publishing an Armenian Numismatic Journal is perhaps long overdue. This journal, in the form of a newsletter is the only publication devoted strictly to Armenian numismatics. We cannot claim the honor of starting the first Armenian numismatic journalism. That glory belongs to one of the modest members of Mekhitarist Congregation convent of Vienna, the late father C. Sibilian (1851), the great pioneer and father of Armenian numismatics. A century later, this was to reach its climax under the able pen of Dr. P. Z. Bedoukian, a consulting chemist and a brilliant Armenian numismatist.

The collectors of Armenian coins need an organ where they can express the voice of Armenian numismatics. It is this vacuum that the "Armenian Numismatic Journal" intends to fill with a very humble start.

Armenian coins are relatively attractive compared to other coins of the same period. It is this intrinsic beauty of Tigranes II tetradrachm or Levon I tram that is building gradual momentum in the popularity of Armenian coins. Once Armenian medieval coins were strange coins to many numismatists. Today, numismatists of great fame (Armenian and non-Armenian descent) publish articles on Armenian coins. From obscurity of yesterday, it has risen to the recognition of today. The popularity and beauty of Armenian coins is making the Armenian public gradually conscious of an outstanding heritage.

The present membership of the Armenian Numismatic Society, hopefully the nucleus of a new and international organization, intends to offer a forum to all Armenian numismatists and coin collectors who are willing to write and express the voice of Armenian numismatics. This is the journal of all Armenian coin collectors. It is very important for all of us to realize that we depend on our members for articles to publish in this periodical. If you have a unique coin, why not write an article about it? It does not need to be scholarly. The format of a newsletter can be flexible. If you can, we would prefer that it be typed on white paper either in English or Armenian. Be patient and bear with us for our shortcomings. A nice cover and an index will be provided annually for each volume.

We hope that this very modest newsletter eventually will be transformed into an attractive and qualitative numismatic publication. However, all of these plans depend on a growing membership, the number of articles submitted, and generous support of the members.

ԽՄՐԱԳՐԱԿԱՆ ԱՄՓՈՓՈՒՄ

Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութեան ներկայ անդամակցութիւնը՝ թերեւս կորիզը միջազգային նոր կազմակերպութեան մը՝ կը մտադրէ լայն քանալ իր հայ Դրամագիտական Հանդէս՝ պարբերաթերթին էջերը բոլոր հայ դրամագէտներու եւ դրամահաւաքներու համար: Մեր անդամները պէտք է գիտակցին որ՝ յօդուածներ կ'ակնկալենք իրենցմէ՝ տպելու համար մեր պարբերաթերթը նամականիի ձեւով: Կը յուսանք որ այս համեստ նամականին՝ օր մը ձեիափոխուի պիտի գեղատիպ եռամսեակի մը: Մեր յաջողութիւնը կախեալ է՝ անդամներու բազմանալէն, ստացուած յօդուածներէն, եւ անդամներու վեհանձն աջակցութենէն:



PAPER NOTES OF ARMENIA

Outlined* by

Y. T. Nercessian

I. TRANSCAUCASIAN COMMISSARIAT

The notes are printed on paper known to be with and without a network of varnish as a background pattern. The script is in four languages. The Russian language appears on the obverse. The languages which appear on the reverse in addition to the Russian are: Armenian, Azerbaijani Turkish, and Georgian. 1,2,3

1. 1 Ruble, black letters on brown paper 55 x 76 mm
 - a. with network varnish
 - b. without network varnish
2. 3 Rubles, black on green background 64 x 87 mm
 - a. with network varnish
 - b. without network varnish
3. 5 Rubles 113 x 74 mm
 - a. with network varnish, blue on buff
 - b. without network varnish, blue on grey
4. 10 Rubles 120 x 78 mm
 - a. with network varnish, brown on olive/brown and green on olive
 - b. with network varnish, dark brown on olive
 - c. without network varnish, light brown on olive
5. 50 Rubles, black on grey/black and rose on grey 136 x 87 mm
 - a. with network varnish, thin paper
 - b. with network varnish, thick paper
 - c. without network

* A year ago a press release was given to the papers requesting information on Armenian paper notes. The following responded: M. Ejdaharian, Drexel Hill, Pa.; D. Gulumian, Brooklyn, N. Y.; T. Rockwell, North Andover, Mass.; V. Toma, Oldsmar, Florida.

PAPER NOTES OF ARMENIA

6. 100 Rubles, black and dark brown on 156 x 99 mm
 pale brown/ black dark
 brown, violet and blue green on
 pale brown

 a. with network varnish

 b. without network varnish

7. 250 Rubles, black on pink/ 167 x 102 mm
 black, dark brown, blue, blue-
 grey and gold

 a. with network varnish

 b. without network varnish

II. VAN COMMISSARIAT

The notes are handwritten in Armenian, mimeographed on one side of common paper with violet ink and serialized with black ink. They are dated 1918 Feb. 27. In background is the seal of approval of District Commissariat in Russian. 4

1.	1 Ruble **	
2.	3 Rubles **	
3.	5 Rubles **	
4.	10 Rubles	85 x 95 mm
5.	25 Rubles	
6.	50 Rubles	85 x 85 mm
7.	75 Rubles **	
8.	100 Rubles	115 x 125 mm

1. Kardakoff, N., "Katalog der Geldscheine von Russland und der Baltischen Staaten, 1769-1950", Berlin, 1953, p. 151.
2. Pick, A., "Catalogue of European Paper Money Since 1900", Port Washington, N. Y., 1971, pp. 270-271.
3. Lang, D. M., "War Medals and Paper Money of Georgia in Transcaucasia (1915-1924)", The American Numismatic Society, "Museum Notes" VII, New York, N. Y., 1957, p. 242.

(Footnotes continued on next page)

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

SARKISSIAN, H.V., Haikakan Harsanekan Medalner - Հայկական Հարսանեկան Մեդալներ (Armenian Wedding Medallions), "Lraber Hasarakakan Gitutiunneri", No. 7 (379), Yerevan, Armenia, 1974, pp. 48-56, 2 pl., illus. In Armenian, half page Russian summary.

Ten different types of Armenian wedding medallions (Gold, silver, bronze) are discussed. Some of these were made by Dutch medallists Martin and Johann Holtzhey in XVIIth century. The medallions are in private collections and museums. Such wedding medallions were popular with the Armenians until XIXth century. In Armenia, to continue and revive this beautiful custom a new wedding medallion was struck in 1972.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEETING NOTICE

Date: 8:00 P.M., Friday, April 25, 1975

Location: Republic Federal Savings and Loan Association
Community Room
9200 East Slauson Avenue
Pico Rivera, California 90660
Between "605" and Santa Ana Freeways

Subject: to be discussed details of Paul Zareh Bedoukian
Armenian Numismatic Award

It is important that the members make a point to attend this very important meeting. There are many things which can be discussed only with good attendance. Out of town members are encouraged to write their opinions addressed to the secretary of the Society.

ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN AND SUPPORT THE ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

4. Sarkissian, H. V., "Van Kaghaki 1918 T. Pokhgir-Tghtadramneri Patmutiunits" -"Վան Քաղաքի 1918 թ. Փոխգիր-Թղթադրամների Պատմություններ" (From the 1918 Script Money History of the City of Van), "Lraber Hasarakakan Gitutiunneri", No. 3 (286), Yerevan, Armenia, 1967, pp. 73-78. Illustrations. In Armenian.

** According to Sarkissian eyewitnesses have claimed that all of these notes were in circulation in Van. However, in the museums of Armenia and Diaspora they can account only for 10, 25, 50, and 100 Ruble notes. The notes were in circulation 22 days only (Feb. 27, 1918 - March 21, 1918). After the evacuation of Van they were exchanged for Transcaucasian Commissariat paper notes of same ruble value. He doubts the existance of 1, 3, 5, 75 Ruble notes.

(Article to be continued)